

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR (Georgian SSR)

REPORT

SUBJECT Civil Defense at Knitted Goods
Combine in Tbilisi

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50X1-HUM

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

A six-page report on the civil defense measures employed at the knitted goods combine in Tbilisi

This report includes comments on general instructions, how to behave during air attacks, special instructions, air raid drills, and antiaircraft shelters.

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Attachment
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COUNTRY: USSR (City of Tbilisi)

SUBJ: CIVIL DEFENSE AT KNITTED GOODS
COMBINE IN TBILISI

Date Written: 19 Sept. 1960

GENERAL INSTRUCTION

a)

the Knitted Goods Combine (TRIKOTAZHNYI KOMBINAT) located on Knitted Goods (TRIKOTAZHNYI) Street, unnumbered, in the City of Tbilisi (GRUZINSKAYA S.S.R), until September 1956.

Lectures were given one hour per week, mostly during the summer and they consisted of the following:

Knowledge of the different kinds of gases and the toxic potentiality of each. This subject matter was under the direction of GORGISHELI (first and second names unknown), Chief of the local Antiaircraft Defense Program (MESTNAYA PROTIVOVOZDUSHNAYA OJRANA) (M.P.V.O.) of the Knitted Goods Combine.

50X1-HUM

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CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

METHOD OF ADMINISTERING FIRST AID TO SOMEONE INJURED IN AN AIRRAID

They made several persons lie down on the floor as if they were injured in a bombardment and the nurses put them on stretchers and bandaged wounded arms and legs, taking them to the Factory Police's Room.

KNOWLEDGE AND USE OF THE GAS MASK

Practice consisted of putting it on as fast as possible.

HOW TO BEHAVE DURING AIR ATTACKS

As soon as the siren announced the proximity of enemy aircraft, one had to go rapidly to the shelter. Those persons who were located at a great distance from the shelter, had to go to the nearest vestibule. Those civilians who were in a place where there were no buildings, had to throw themselves on the ground until the danger was past.

50X1-HUM

Lectures did not treat on any other subject.

they had a practice run. When the sirens went off at the Knitted Goods Combine, all work in the shops ceased and the workers went down to the shelter remaining there for some 10 minutes until the siren sounded again and each one went back to normal work.

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b) Lectures were given by shops and all were under the supervision of GORGISHELI.

Attendance at the

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lectures was voluntary; however, at 3 in the afternoon when the workers of the first shift finished for the day, the doors of the Combine were closed so that no one could leave until the lecture was finished.

c) The only organization which was in charge of this instruction was the Local Anti-Aircraft Defense.

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remainder of the people who attended these lectures belonged to various other kinds of organizations

d) In the shop where threads were prepared all of the workers and chiefs attended the lectures, about 50 or 60 in all. In this manner, 3 to 4,000 workers who worked at the Knitted Goods Combine received such instruction.

CONFIDENTIAL

-3-

50X1-HUM

e) When this theory and practice -- which was repeated every year -- was finished, the people who attended (about 90% of the total workers) did not receive any kind of diploma nor document which accredited them with having completed such training.

f) The citizens who resided in the city received Civil Defense Training in the industrial establishments where they worked, since, generally speaking, everyone worked somewhere or other. [redacted] the employees working in military factories received a more intensive training but did not know of what this training consisted.

g) Instruction given to the Civilian population did not have radio, T.V. or other type of dissemination. Neither were books of any kind distributed.

h) The days on which lectures were to be given were announced by a circular which was posted on the shop bulletin board, signed by GORGISHELI, so that all could attend. In other quarters, Chiefs of the Komsomol, C.P., Labor Unions, etc. organizations agitated their affiliates so that everyone would attend. The workers of the Combine were forewarned so that as soon as they heard the Combine siren, they would leave their work and go to the shelter as soon as possible.

i) The shelter was located in the Combine.

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTION

b) [redacted] the special life-saving brigades were under the Komsomol, C.P., Unions and the Aviation Voluntary Assistance Group; [redacted]

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AIR RAID DRILLS

a) [redacted]
[redacted] They were always advised by the siren.

The population en masse was never subjected to these kind of drills.

b) These drills started at the Combine around 1950.

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c) No drills were effected in the city.

II. ANTI-AIRCRAFT SHELTERSIN HOMES AND PLACES OF WORK

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CONFIDENTIAL

-4-

c) In the factories [redacted] only the Knitted Goods Combine had
air raid shelters. 50X1-HUM

The (knitted goods) industry was lodged in a 3 floor building, stone construction, in the basement of which an air raid shelter had been expressly built.

DESCRIPTION OF SHELTER

a) [redacted] 50X1-HUM

b) The shelter was started by some 20 construction workers during 1950 and was finished in 1954. [redacted]

[redacted] The shelter was made exclusively
for the Combine workers with the express intention of protecting them from atomic attacks. 50X1-HUM

[redacted] 50X1-HUM

1. The shelter was constructed of reinforced concrete and the walls were painted a light brown, the color of dirt. The walls had no steel coating nor any other kind of metallic material.

2. It had a great many rooms to accommodate the total 1,000 or 1,200 employees that worked on each of the three shifts. The rooms were of 3 kinds. The largest ones were some 36 square meters, the intermediate ones some 16 square meters and the smallest some 12 square meters. They were all constructed with the same material and all had identical characteristics. [redacted]

[redacted] 50X1-HUM

The floors of the shelters were of cement.

3. The thickness of the walls was some 50 cm. The thickness of the ceiling was about 2 meters in comparison to the thickness of the Combine shop ceilings. The height of the rooms would be approximately 1.80 meters since a man of medium stature could almost touch the ceiling with his hand.

4. The basement had a hallway and the rooms were located to the right as you entered the shelter. All the rooms had a door leading to the hallway and a door

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-5-

communicating one room with another.

The door which gave to the hallway was of double steel with an air chamber in between. The height of the door would be about 1.60 meters as one had to duck slightly on entering. The thickness of the door would be about 25 cm. It was edged by a border of steel. [redacted] It closed 50X1-HUM hermetically with rubber joints. [redacted] it had no peephole. The doors were painted the same color as the rooms. There was no sign on it nor any indications. 50X1-HUM [redacted] it was an ordinary door latch with a lever such as on a refrigerator.

The doors which communicated the various rooms were made of only one steel panel. Height of doors was the same as the one described above, about 1.60 meters, about 70 cms. in width and thickness of about 4 cms. There were no peepholes and they closed with a sliding latch. They had no rubber stripping around them. 50X1-HUM

5. [redacted]

6. The walls of the shelter [redacted]

[redacted] were all smooth

and there were no openings for storing things nor were there any sanitary installations of any kind. 50X1-HUM

7. The rooms of the shelter had no air purification system installed [redacted]

[redacted] The rooms

had no furniture nor objects of any kind.

All the rooms had electric light from the Combine electric sub-station. They were equipped with only one 25 kw bulb each.

8. There was no telephone installation.

9. [redacted]

50X1-HUM

10. [redacted]

d) The shelter had a depth of some 8 meters, approximately, with respect to the level of the street. To enter the shelter one had to go down some 20 steps.

e) The new houses that were being built [redacted] shelters built in them.

had no

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50X1-HUM

CONFIDENTIAL

-6-

h)

the majority of the factories in the city of Tbilisi

were possessed of shelters for practically all of the laborers who worked at each.

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CIVIL DEFENSE ORGANIZATION

50X1-HUM

Equipment and Material In the Civil Defense exercises which were carried out at the factory, gas masks were used as well as some pincers about a meter and a half in length. These latter were to pick up unexploded incendiary bombs.

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